

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
February 11, 2013

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Shapiro  
Excused: Ryan, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2013 special meeting as presented. The motion passed by all.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, believes the reason Mansfield was not overwhelmed by the snow this past weekend is because the Town Council has followed the requests of the Department of Public Works for both staff and equipment. Mr. Raphaelson stated there is nothing more expensive than lowering programs in bad times and increasing them in good times. He urged the Council to do their best to continue to fund the Mansfield we know and love.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, agreed the Public Works Department did a much better job; thanked the Council for listening to the taxpayers and not supporting the building of two new schools; and urged the Council not to pay to bring water to UConn. Mr. Hossack does not dispute the job the Fire Department does in Town but objects to the fire fighters working out at the Community Center and going out to get food while on duty.

Mike Sikoski, Windham, agreed with the previous two speakers regarding the work of the Department of Public Works. Mr. Sikoski stated he has pictures of a fire truck parked near the home of a firefighter on a holiday.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, read the documents in the Town Council packet regarding the Fire Department but did not see any information on the accidents which occurred recently. Ms. Wassmundt also asked if there is a policy regarding the Town becoming involved with a private project?

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report, Town Manager Matt Hart reported he has reached out to other towns who receive PILOT money from the State in an effort to understand and affect the proposal in the Governor's budget. Mr. Hart thanked the Department of Public Works and Facilities Management staff for their work during the storm. He also acknowledged the good work of the Emergency Management Team and thanked the public who heeded the warning to shelter in place and stay off the roads. Mayor Paterson, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Mr. Hart for his leadership during the storm.

In response to a question posed during public comment, Mr. Hart reported a limited amount of his time and the consultant's time has been spent reviewing the Mansfield Hollow Dam Hydro Project. Mr. Hart will provide an accounting of money spent to date.

Council members discussed the changes in the Governor's proposed budget and the effect it will have, to the extent known, on the Town's budget. The Mayor and Town Manager will continue to advocate for the Town.

## V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Paulhus noted an article in the Chronicle listed him as being absent for the February 4, 2013 meeting and although he had to leave early he was present for part of the meeting.

Mr. Shapiro attended the EOSmith production of "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying" and announced it is an incredible production with many talented actors. He urged the public to try to attend a performance.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager noted that a permanent fix for snow accumulation has been identified and will be implemented in the next construction season. In the meantime, a lift will be used to remove the snow. Mr. Hart reported in the near future an approximately \$140,000 payment from EDR will be billed as part of the tax abatement schedule. He will also provide information on the anticipated tax revenues for this year.

### 2. Community/Campus Relations, Spring Weekend

The Town/Gown Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss Spring Weekend. UConn is contemplating a few modest sanctioned events while still maintaining the majority of restrictions that have been in place the last few years.

### 3. UConn Landfill, Long-Term Monitoring Program

The latest Long-term Monitoring Plan report for the former UConn landfill was reviewed and no significant issues noted.

### 4. Proposed School Building Project

The Council discussed the draft letter to the Board of Education which explained the Council's decision making process and identified a number of possible projects.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to send the draft letter to the Board of Education. In a friendly amendment, offered by Mr. Kochenburger and accepted by Ms. Moran, the following wording was added to the last paragraph, "We welcome the Board of Education's leadership and direction on these issues."

Ms. Keane offered an additional amendment to the amended motion which removes the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph which begins with, "More specifically...", retains the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence of the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph and eliminates the rest of that paragraph.

Seconded by Mr. Paulhus the amendment passed with Freudmann, Keane, Paulhus and Shapiro in favor, Moran and Kochenburger opposed and Paterson abstaining.

The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

A meeting with the Board of Education will be scheduled for February 26, 2013.

Larry and Cindi Alan, who submitted a letter regarding reimbursement of legal expenses with regards to the school building project, have requested the Council consider their request.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### 5. Emergency Contingency Plan for Elections, Primaries and Referenda

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective February 11, 2013, to adopt the Town of Mansfield Emergency Contingency Plan for Elections, Primaries, and

Referenda, as presented by the Registrars of Voters, in consultation with the Town Clerk.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### 6. Fire Department Operations

Fire Chief Dave Dagon presented a brief overview of his report and addressed the ongoing investigations of the recent accidents involving Fire Department apparatus. In response to previous public comments, the Chief stated that no Fire Department apparatus was parked at the Red Rock Café on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup>. He also enumerated the various reasons Fire Department vehicles might be on the road without lights and sirens and stated any stops on the way to or from related work need to be approved by the Fire Captains. In response to Council questions, Chief Dagon discussed the departmental fitness program, the policy which does not separate the firefighter from the apparatus, the ongoing training programs for full time, part time and volunteer firefighters, and the relatively small increase in the budget before and after the consolidation of departments.

#### 7. Financial Statements Dated December 31, 2012

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to table the acceptance of the Financial Statements dated December 31, 2012 until the Finance Committee has had an opportunity to review the material.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### 8. CCM Prescription Discount Card Program

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective February 1, 2013 to participate in the CCM Prescription Discount Card Program and to authorize Town Manager Matthew W. Hart to execute the agreement with ProAct, Inc. on behalf of the Town of Mansfield.

Changes to the agreement suggested by Town Attorney Dennis O' Brien have been submitted to CCM for review.

Ms. Moran offered an amendment requiring the addition of changes to the definition of "covered person" in the agreement as proposed by the Town Attorney, or something very close to the proposed language.

The amendment failed with all in opposition except Moran and Kochenburger who voted in the affirmative.

The motion as originally presented passed unanimously.

#### 9. Recommendations for Reducing Gun Violence

Councilors discussed the draft letter composed by Deputy Mayor Moran which encompasses some of the most important elements of the Council's discussion of the issue.

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Keane seconded to send the draft letter to Mansfield's State and Federal Legislators with the inclusion of an amendment which removes the sentence referencing the two Commissions.

The motion passed unanimously.

### VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments offered.

### IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

### X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger recently interviewed 2 applicants interested in serving on the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities. With the approval of his fellow

Committee on Committees members, Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the appointment of Imanuel Wexler and Tammie Meyers to the Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities.  
Motion passed unanimously.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

- 10.S. Gifford re: Foster Care
- 11.A. LaRosa re: House Bill 767
- 12.E. Paterson/M. Hart/M. Capriola re: Thank you
- 13.State of Connecticut Department of Transportation re: Underage Drinking Grant
- 14.FY 2014 Governor's Proposed Budget Impact on: Mansfield

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

By consensus the Council agreed to add to the next agenda the request of Larry and Cindi Alan for reimbursement of legal expenses incurred as part of the school building project.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk